

**FARM FACTS***"FACT FINDERS FOR AGRICULTURE"*

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New Jersey January Cattle Inventory Down 4 Percent from Previous Year

- ✦ All cattle and calves in New Jersey as of January 1, 2005, totaled 44,000 head, down 2,000 head from the previous year. This year's total cattle & calves inventory ties the state record low set on January 1, 2002. The highest inventory of cattle and calves was 264,000 head on hand January 1, 1880.
- ✦ All cows and heifers that have calved, at 22,000, were unchanged from January 1, 2004. Beef cows, at 10,000, were unchanged from January 1, 2004. Milk cows, at 12,000, ties the record low inventory for milk cows set last year.
- ✦ Beef replacement and other heifers, at 3,000 and 2,000, respectively, were both down 500 head from January 1, 2004.
- ✦ Other class estimates on January 1, 2005, were unchanged from previous year, except for calves under 500 pounds. Calves under 500 pounds were at 7,000, down 1,000 head from the previous year.

Cattle and Calves: Number by Class, January 1, 2004 and 2005

	New Jersey		United States	
	January 1, 2004	January 1, 2005	January 1, 2004	January 1, 2005
<i>Number of Head (000)</i>				
All cattle and calves	46.0	44.0	94,888.0	95,848.0
Cows and heifers that have calved:				
Beef cows	10.0	10.0	32,861.3	33,055.4
Milk cows	12.0	12.0	8,989.5	9,005.0
Heifers:				
Beef cow replacement	3.5	3.0	5,518.3	5,745.9
Milk cow replacement	6.0	6.0	4,020.0	4,133.3
Other	2.5	2.0	9,806.2	9,793.4
Steers, bulls, and calves:				
Steers, 500 pounds and over	3.0	3.0	16,277.3	16,510.8
Bulls, 500 pounds and over	1.0	1.0	2,205.9	2,219.3
Calves under 500 pounds	8.0	7.0	15,209.5	15,384.9



2004 Fruit Summary

The five major fruit and berry crops grown in New Jersey are apples, blueberries, cranberries, peaches and strawberries. The mild late winter and warmer than normal early spring limited freeze damage to fruit and berry crops this season. Sufficient soil moisture and above average spring temperatures benefited fruit development. Frequently rains during late spring and summer had different impacts on the fruit crops. As the season concluded, strawberries had higher production while blueberry, cranberry, and peaches had lower production compared with a year ago.

Total production of the five fruit and berry crops during 2004 amounted to 185 million pounds, down 7 percent from 2003's production of 200 million pounds. Value of utilized production of these crops totaled \$89.8 million, a 3 percent decrease from the 2003 total of \$92.7 million.

The peach bloom and set were earlier this year. Peach producers also began harvest earlier than usual. Fruit quality and size were generally good. Frequent rains and scattered thunderstorms not only interrupted the harvest schedule but also caused fruit to crack. Peach utilized production totaled 32,500 tons, down 7 percent from 2003. Season average price, at \$760.00 per ton (38 cents per pound), was \$20.00 lower than last year's price. Value of utilized production was \$23.2 million in 2004, 4 percent lower than in 2003.

Apple production was normal and quality was good. Total apple production, at 40 million pounds, was unchanged from 2003. The season average price, at 13.4 cents per pound, was 1.2 cents less than in 2003. Value of utilized production was \$5.36 million in 2004 compared with \$5.84 million in 2003.

The blueberry crop's bloom was reported to be average to heavy, while set of fruit was reported as average. Blueberry production totaled 39 million pounds, a decrease of 5 percent from last year. The season average price, at \$1.17 per pound, is the highest price ever recorded in this state. The value of utilized production for the 2004 blueberry crop was \$45.6 million, less than 1 percent from 2003.

Cranberry total production was 402,000 barrels, down 16 percent from the 480,000 barrels produced in 2003. The season average price was \$34.80 per barrel, resulting in a value of production of \$13.7 million. The damp weather conditions through most of the growing season created disease and fruit rot problems in the cranberry crop. The severe rain storm on July 12, 2004, dumped more than 12 inches in some of the most productive cranberry growing area of New Jersey. Burlington County experienced widespread flooding, and some growers reported damage to some of their dams and gates.

There were 12,000 hundredweight of strawberries produced in New Jersey in 2004, 9 percent higher than in 2003. The season average price of \$162.00 per hundredweight is \$3.00 less than a year ago. The higher production level brought the value of production to \$1.94 million, compared to \$1.82 million in 2003.

New Jersey Fruit and Berry Production, Utilization, and Value, 2003 and 2004

Crop And Year	Production 1/		Utilized Production		Season Average Price Per Unit	Value of Utilized Production
	Total	Utilized	Fresh 2/	Processed		
<u>Apples</u>	-- million lbs --				cents per lb	\$1,000
2003	40	40	24	16	14.6	5,840
2004	40	40	3/	3/	13.4	5,360
<u>Blueberries</u>	-- million lbs --				\$ per lb	\$1,000
2003	41	40	33	7	1.14	45,690
2004	39	39	33	6	1.17	45,630
<u>Cranberries 4/</u>	-- thousand barrels --				\$ per barrel 5/	\$1,000
2003	480	480	---	480	31.60	15,168
2004	402	394	---	394	34.80	13,711
<u>Peaches</u>	-- tons --				\$ per ton	\$1,000
2003	35,000	31,000	31,000	6/	780.00	24,180
2004	32,500	30,500	30,500	6/	760.00	23,180
<u>Strawberries 7/</u>	-- thousand cwt --				\$ per cwt	\$1,000
2003	11	11	11	---	165.00	1,815
2004	12	12	12	---	162.00	1,944

1/ Difference between total production and that having utilized value is economic abandonment and/or excess cullage of mature fruit. for cranberries, differences also include the quantity set aside under the Cranberry Marketing Order in 2001.

2/ Includes quantities used in farm household or given away.

3/ Not available until July 6, 2005.

4/ Small quantities of fresh cranberries are included in processed to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

5/ Weighted average of co-op and independent sales. Co-op prices represent pool proceeds excluding returns from non-cranberry products and before any deductions for capital stock and other retains.

6/ Included in fresh utilization.

7/ No longer in the Federal Estimating Program.

January Farm Prices Received Index Down 0.9 percent From Last Month

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in January, at 110, based on 1990-92=100, is 0.9 percent below the December Index. The Crop Index is down 2.9 percent while the Livestock Index is up 0.8 percent. Producers received higher commodity prices for broilers, cattle, oranges, and snap beans. Lower prices were received for tomatoes, dairy, eggs, and broccoli. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of cattle, corn, soybeans, and strawberries offset decreased marketings of grapes, dairy, tobacco, and cotton.

This preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 1.8 percent from January 2004. The Food Commodities Index, at 115, is 0.9 percent below last month but 1.8 percent above January 2004.

Prices Paid Index Up 0.8 Percent

The January Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) is 134 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is up 0.8 percent from December and 3.1 percent above January 2004. Higher prices in January for self propelled machinery, feeder pigs, and nitrogen fertilizers offset lower prices for LP gas, gasoline, and feed grains.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: United States

Item	Entire Month		Preliminary
	Jan 2004	Dec 2004	Jan 2005
-- Dollars --			
Field Crops			
Barley, per bushel	2.69	2.47	2.37
Corn, per bushel	2.39	2.04	1.98
Hay, all, baled, per ton ^{1/}	80.10	84.30	84.20
Soybeans, per bushel	7.35	5.45	5.32
Fruit, fresh			
Apples, per cwt ^{2/}	0.304	0.223	0.216
Strawberries	151.00	169.00	158.00
Vegetables, fresh			
Corn, Sweet, per cwt	30.80	16.60	14.50
Lettuce, per cwt	15.40	14.00	14.40
Tomatoes, per cwt	34.50	47.10	16.90
Livestock and Livestock Products			
Beef Cattle, per cwt	80.90	86.80	89.10
Steers and Heifers, per cwt	85.40	91.80	94.20
Cows, per cwt ^{3/}	46.10	48.70	50.00
Calves, per cwt	110.00	122.00	123.00
Broilers, live, per lb ^{4/}	0.430	0.390	0.430
Eggs, all, per dozen ^{5/}	0.926	0.654	0.558
Milk, all, per cwt ^{6/ 7/}	13.20	16.40	15.90

^{1/} Mid-month price.

^{2/} Equivalent packinghouse-door returns for CA, MI, and NY (apples only), and WA (apples, peaches, and pears). Prices as sold for other states.

^{3/} Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

^{4/} Equivalent liveweight returns to producers for most states. Includes growers and contractors.

^{5/} Mid-month price.

^{6/} Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

^{7/} January 2005 fat test percent: all milk 3.77, fluid milk 3.77, and mfg grade 3.95.



To obtain other agricultural statistics, visit the New Jersey Agricultural Statistics Service at www.nass.usda.gov/nj/ or call 1-800-328-0179.